

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant is pleased to note that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 8-13 to be allowed.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsieh (Reference L: U.S. Patent No. 4,635,021). Regarding claims 1 and 2, the Examiner stated that Hsieh discloses (Fig. 2) a device for interrupting a load circuit and indicating a current overload condition comprising: first (12) and a second (12') electrodes being coupled to a load circuit, said load circuit having source of electrical power (inherently) to connect to current load; a light emitter circuit (3,4) having an indicator lamp (3) serially connected to a current limiting resistor (4), said light emitter circuit being connected to said first electrode (12); and a multi-metallic heat reactive strip (13) connected to said first and second electrodes (12, 12') having a first shape to close said load circuit, and said heat reactive strip being heated by overload current, said overload current creating the only forces to snap into a second shape to open said load circuit and close said light emitter circuit (via contact (2); column 2, lines 48-58), said indicator lamp (3) of said light emitter circuit radiating light to visually indicate said current exceeding a predetermined overload magnitude and said open load circuit.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the Examiner stated that Hsieh discloses means (14) for manually resetting said heat reactive strip (13) back from said second shape to said first shape.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner stated Hsieh discloses a housing (1) having said first and second electrodes (12, 12') extending from its bottom and said manually resetting means (14) and said indicator lamp (3) extending from its top surface, (Fig. 2).

The Examiner rejected claim 6 and claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsieh in view of Maue et al. (Reference M: U.S. Patent No. 5,995,380). Regarding claims 6 and 7, the Examiner stated that Hsieh discloses all of the claims limitations as apply to claim 5, and further that a push button resetting means (14) is extending through the housing (1), wherein said push button (14) pushes against said heat reactive strip (13) to reset it to said first shape after cooling, and (as shown on Fig. 3) that electrodes (71, 71') of the load circuit are inserted into sockets (121, 121') of the device housing (1), but not the opposite, i.e., that electrodes of the device are inserted into the sockets of the load circuit, as claimed in claim 6.

The Examiner stated, that Maue et al. discloses (Fig. 2) an electrical junction box for automobiles, wherein protective devices (17) and electrical components (19) comprising electrodes, which are inserted into the sockets of a circuit.

The Examiner stated that since the inventions of Hsieh and of Maue et al. are from the same field of endeavor (plugable electrical components), the purpose of the devices having electrodes that are inserted into the sockets of the circuit disclosed by Maue et al. would be recognized for the invention of Hsieh.

The Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the plugable electrical devices art at the time the invention was made to reverse said electrodes and sockets in the device of Hsieh (i.e. to provide electrodes for the device (1) and sockets for the load circuit (7)) in order to enhance electrical safety of the device of Hsieh (i.e. to eliminate the exposure of the energized electrodes (71)).

The Examiner stated alternatively, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the plugable electrical devices art at the time the invention was made to reverse said electrodes and sockets in the device of Hsieh (i.e. provide electrodes for the device (1) and sockets for the load circuit (7)), since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. The Examiner cites *In re Einstein*, 8 USPQ 167.

The above-stated rejections and objections are respectfully traversed in view of this amendment.

Hsieh appears to disclose an automatic overload tripper which uses a push button to press a bent bimetal strip down

against a spring which assures that a hook at an end of the bimetal strip can keep good electrical contact with a contact plate, and the hook can trip automatically at overload. The spring also pushes against the bimetal strip so that it will not restore its original position by itself after cooling, for safety purposes.

Maue et al., appear to disclose an electrical junction box having a first insulating polymeric portion and a second polymeric portion defining multiple electrically conductive circuits. The circuits are at least partially separated by the first insulating polymeric portion and at least some of the circuits electrically connect together wire harness connector portions. A further aspect of the present invention junction box causes a section of the first insulating polymeric portion to concurrently act as a segment of an outer protective cover for the junction box.

Applicants teach a circuit interrupter device that protects a load circuit from excessive, or overloading levels of current, provides a visual indication of circuit overload and open circuit, and can be reset. A multi-metallic heat reactive strip is snapped by an overload current to open the load circuit and close a light emitter circuit having a current limiting resistor connected to an indicator lamp that provides a visual indication of the open circuit. The multi-metallic strip is manually reset via a push button to open the light emitter circuit and

extinguish the indicator lamp and close the load circuit to reestablish operation therein. The circuit interruption device can be made utilizing currently available technology for miniature fusing in tight, confining spaces and/or assemblies that have unusual shapes that restrict access in automobile electrical systems, test instruments, domestic appliances or many other electronic/electrical circuits.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7 and 14.

Applicants have amended claim 2 such that claims 2-6 now depend on allowed independent claim 8. Applicants suggest that in light of the amendment of claim 2, claims 2-6 should now be allowable.

No new matter has been entered into the application by this amendment.

Applicants respectfully suggest in view of these remarks that all grounds for rejection and objection have been removed by the foregoing amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to phone Mr. Jean-Paul A. Nasser, attorney for Applicants, 401-832-4736, if in his opinion such phone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT V. BELENGER, ET AL.

15 August 2003

By Jean-Paul A. Nasser
JEAN-PAUL A. NASSER
Attorney of Record
Reg. No. 53372

OFFICIAL

FAX RECEIVED

AUG 15 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800